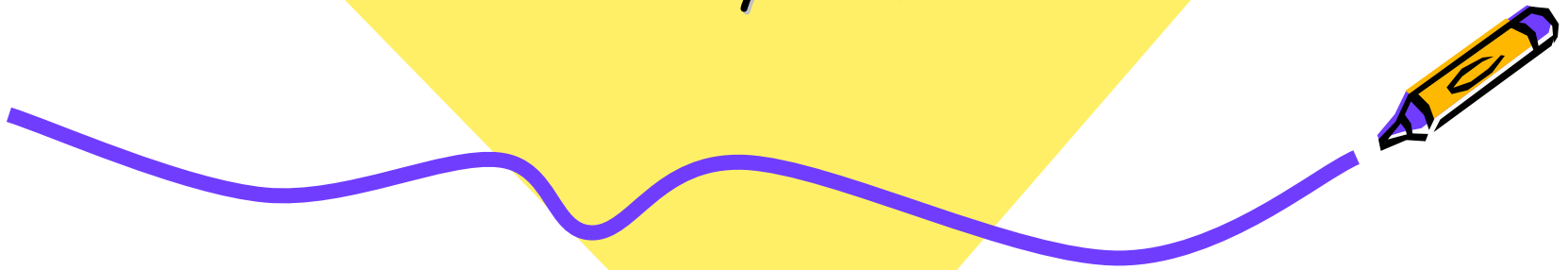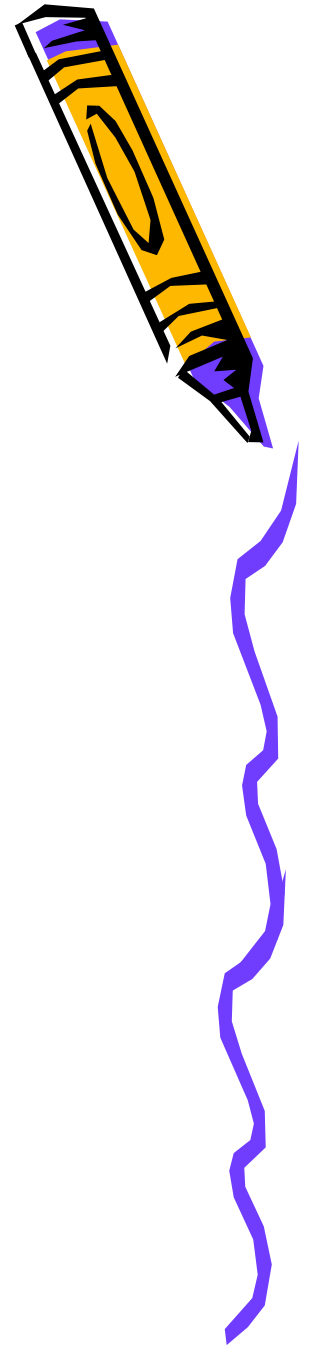# Psychology 1st year assessment pilot
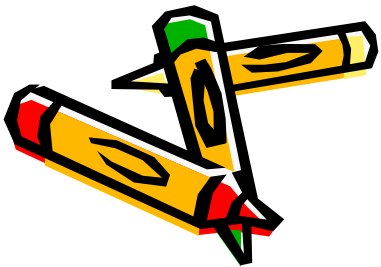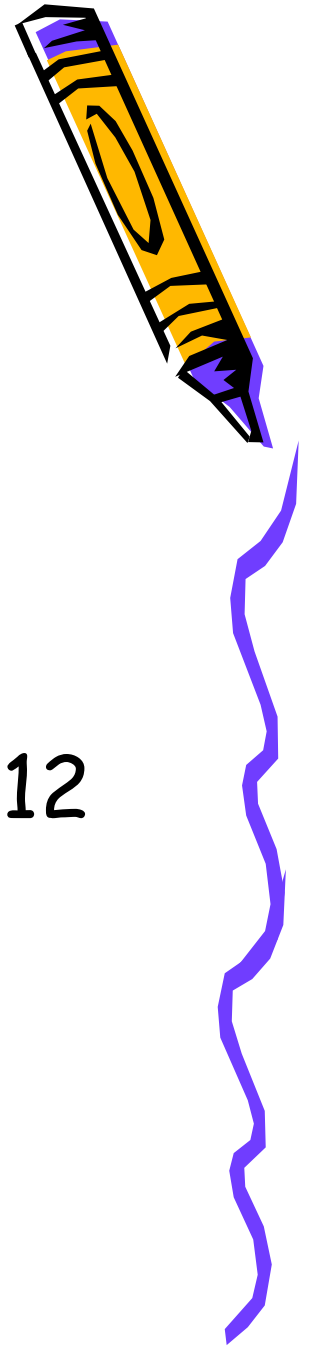
## ...the story so far....

# Psychology Assessment Pilot

- Context
- Drivers for change
- Epistemology
- Evaluation
- Pilot Outline
- Progress to date
- Lessons learned (to date)
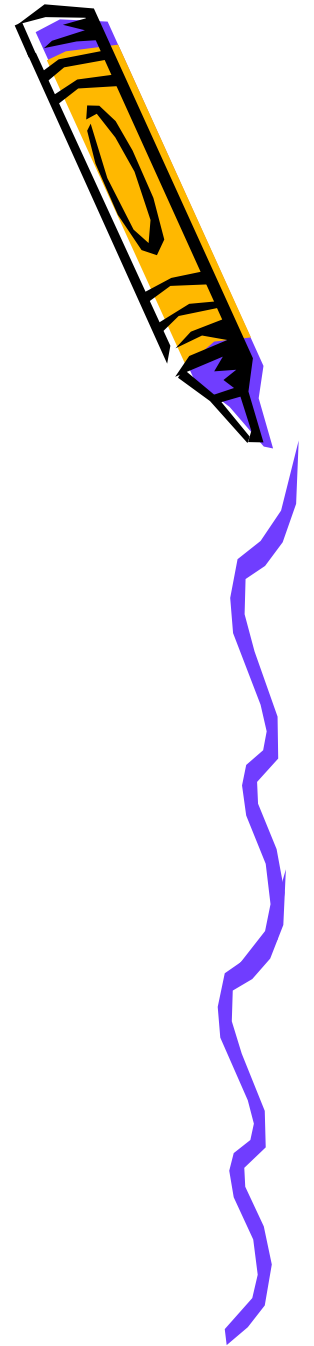- Roll out considerations

# Context

- 580 no. first years
- Mixture f elective and continuing (130 no.)
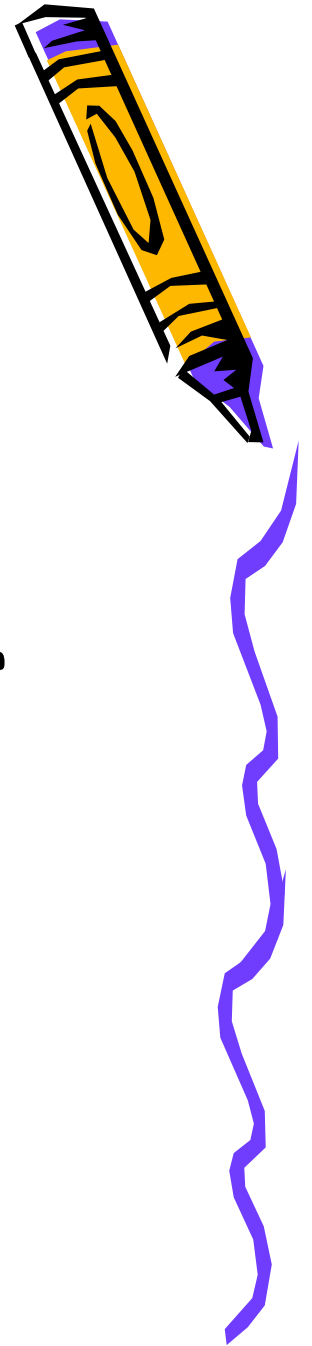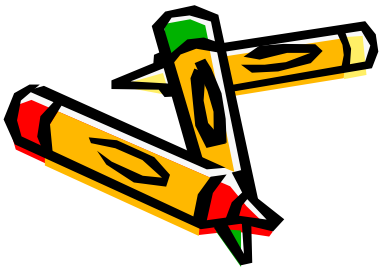- 6 modules,48 lectures,4 tutorials, 12 practicals

# Current Assessment

- 2 x multiple choice (25%)
- Final exam (66%)
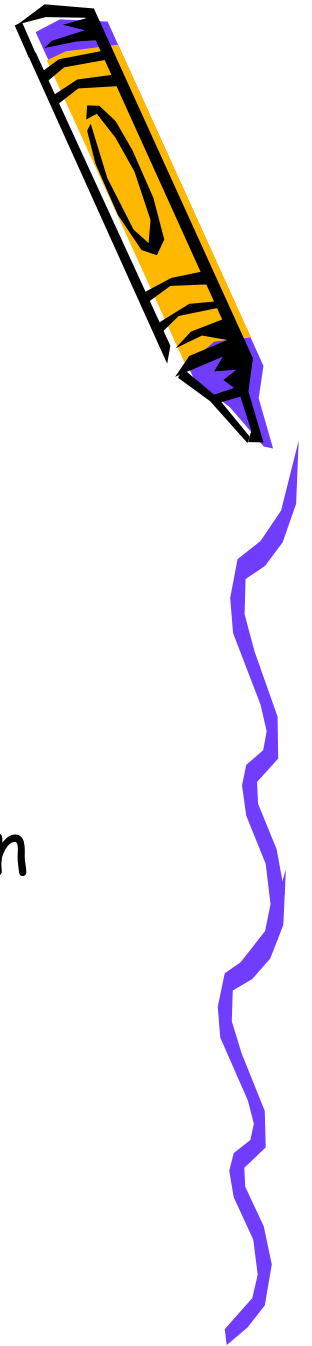- Tutorials (4 %)
- Taking part in experiment (5%)

# Drivers for change

- Improving students learning experience
- Improving standard of entrant for second year
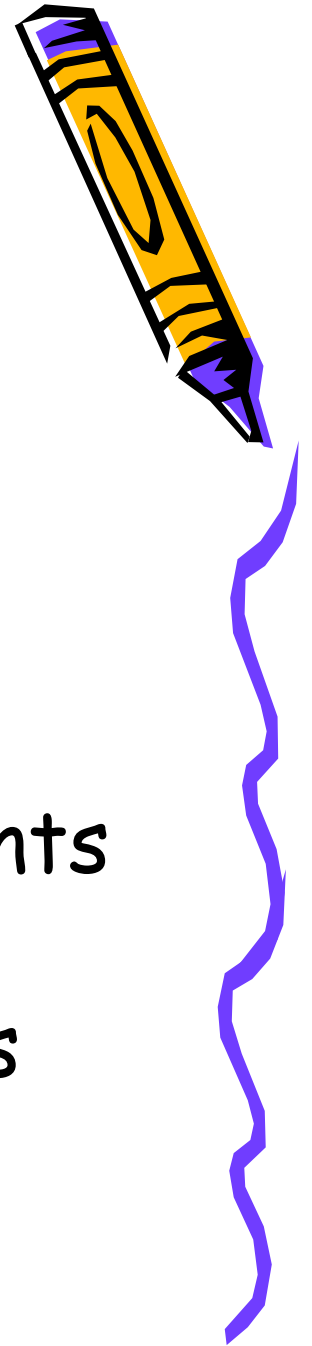- Improving overall exam marks

# Epistemology

- Recognition of the power of formative learning – with timely feedback
- Value of peer interaction
- Scaffolding tasks (Vygotsky)
- Cognitive growth though peer discussion and resolution of conflicts (Piaget)
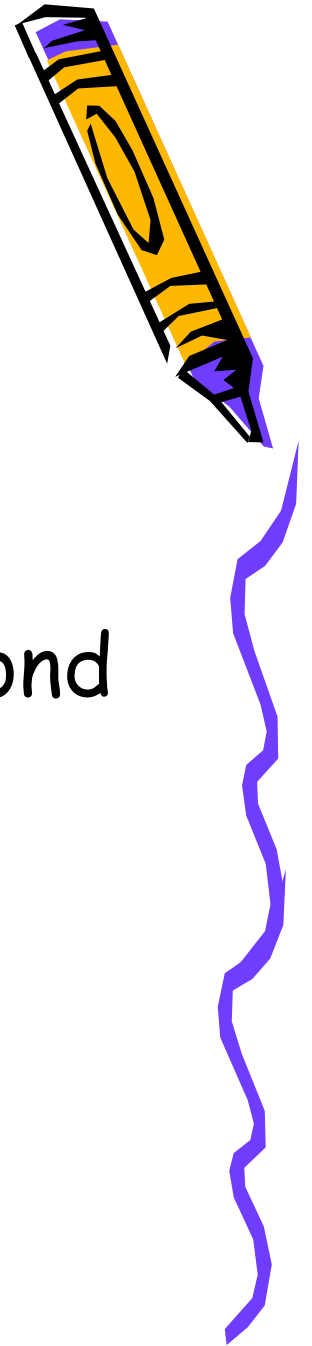
# Evaluation

- Use of pre and post pilot questionnaires
  - Motivated strategies for learning questionnaire
  - Constructivist Learning environments questionnaire
- Student Experience – focus groups
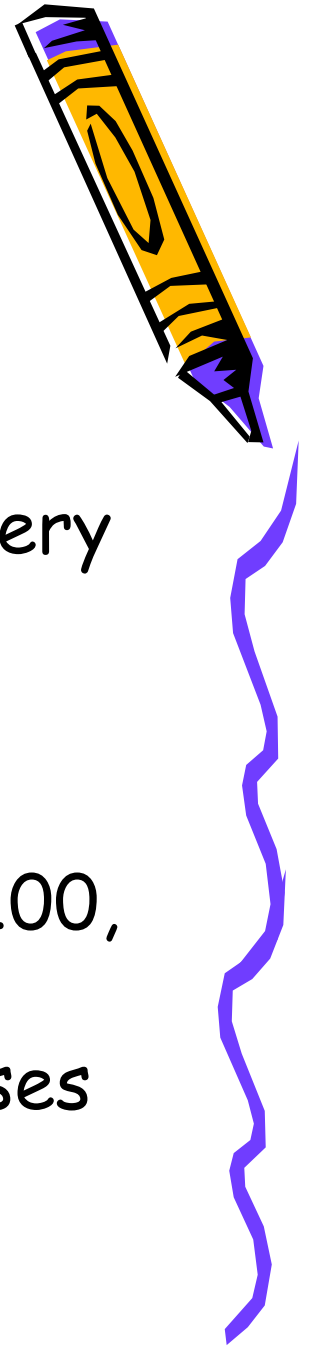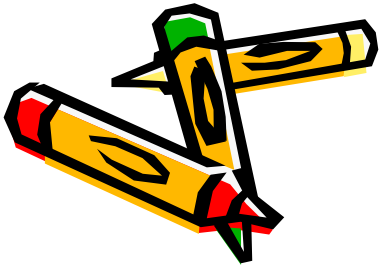
# Evaluation (Cont.)

- Comparison of exam results (in similar module)
- Change in threshold entry for second year?
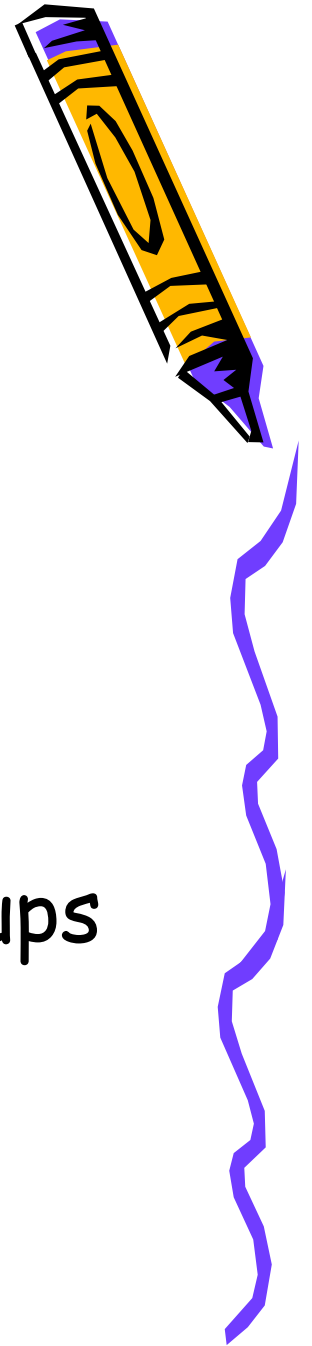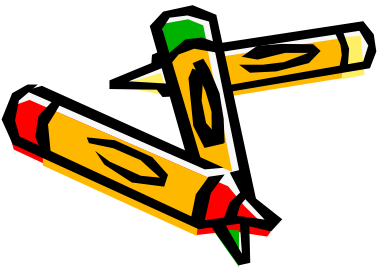- Relationship between discourse in groups and outcomes?

# Outline of the Pilot

- 3 weeks long
- Tasks related to current lecture delivery (memory)
- 78 volunteers
- Different task every week
- Scaffolding in complexity of task (50, 100, and 300 word answers required)
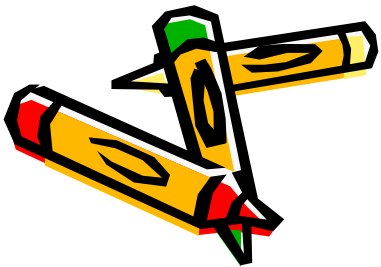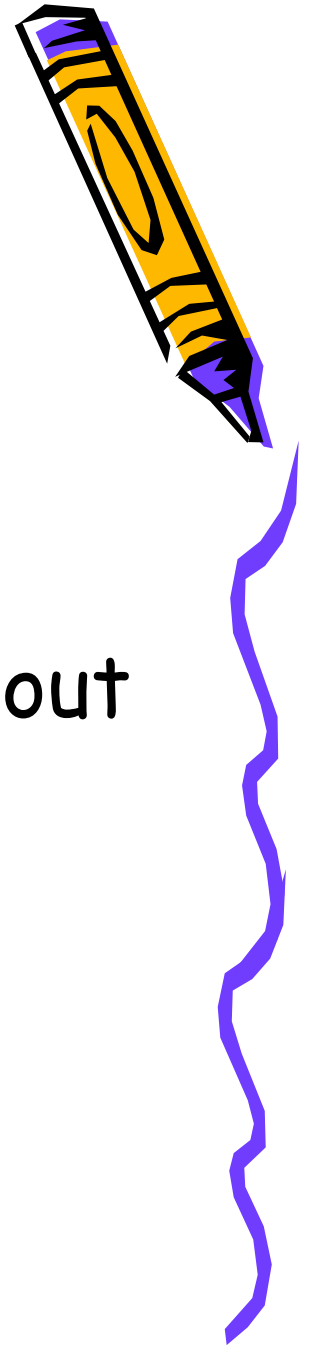- Moving from individual to group responses

# Progress to date

- Ethical approval obtained
- Volunteers signed up and pre-test questionnaires completed
- WebCT site established
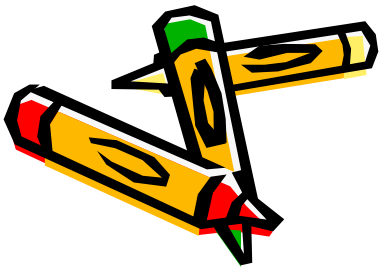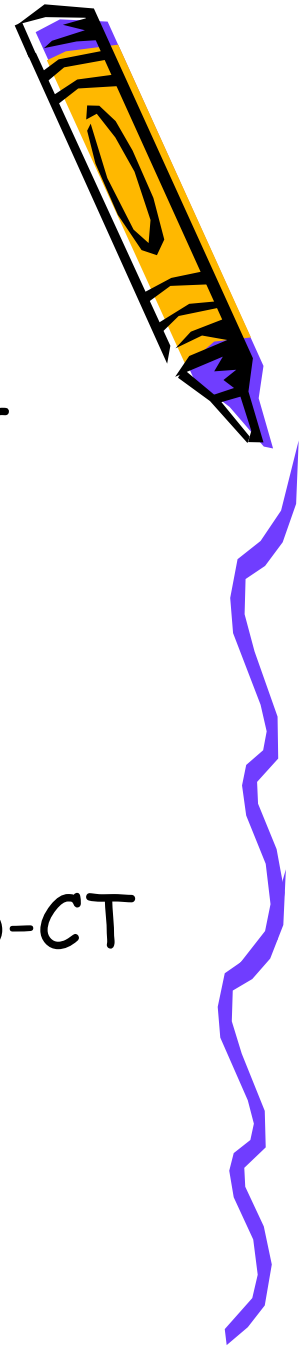- Students signed to discussion groups (13x6)

# Progress to date (cont.)

- Last week- introduction week

- First task live this week, so far about 1/3 of students completing initial task

# Lessons learned (to date)

- Need to develop a formalised check list
- Content to be signed off
- Note all changes made and ensure continuity
- Don't over-estimate students ability to follow directions
- Don't pick a time for a pilot where Web-CT team are away, or when the server is playing up.

# Roll-out considerations

- Inclusion in all 6 modules?
- Voluntary V compulsory ?
- Analysis of discourse – a factor?
- Integration to tutorials etc?